

permits evaporation of the pesticide. Accordingly, it is preferred to first mix the pesticide into the carrier so that the pesticide is preferably bound either onto the surface of the carrier or into the bulk volume of the carrier or both. The mix of pesticide and carrier is then combined with a polymer. The mix of pesticide and carrier may be combined with a pre-polymer. The bound pesticide is retarded or prevented from evaporation during subsequent forming of the polymer. The pesticide is best mixed with carrier with the pesticide in a liquid form. Some pesticides are in liquid form at room temperature, and others are solid or near solid at room temperature. Accordingly, heating the pesticide may be necessary to insure a liquid form for mixing with the carrier. For the pesticide in solid form with a high melting temperature, for example the fungicide carbendazin, the solid form is preferably a powder or granular form mixed with the carrier. The pesticide may be in the form of a paste and mixed with a carrier. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6, 9, 43, and 52.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 37, 38, 41, and 60.

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1. (Four Times Amended) A method of making a matrix for controlled release of at least one pesticide useful for retarding or preventing decay or deterioration of a wooden object by pests, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a mixture comprising at least one liquid pesticide, a plurality of carrier particles, and a hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer to bind a sufficient amount of the pesticide to the carrier particles so as to reduce the release rate of the pesticide from the controlled release matrix to the range from $0.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{day}$ to $40.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{day}$; and

(b) forming the pesticide-containing carrier particles and the polymer into a controlled release matrix having pesticide-containing carrier particles dispersed throughout the polymer.

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3. (Three Times Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic polymer has a hydrophobicity of less than about 13 on either the hydrophilic lipophilic balance or solubility parameter scale.

~~37~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobic polymer has a hydrophobicity of less than about 10 on either the hydrophilic lipophilic balance or solubility parameter scale.

~~38~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobic polymer has a hydrophobicity of less than about 8 on either the hydrophilic lipophilic balance (HLB) or solubility parameter scale.

~~41~~ (Twice Amended) A method of making a device for controlled release of at least one pesticide useful for retarding or preventing decay or deterioration of a wooden object by pests, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) binding at least one liquid pesticide to carrier particles to produce pesticide-containing carrier particles; then

(b) combining said pesticide-containing carrier particles with a thermoplastic hydrophobic polymer to produce said device, wherein the amount of pesticide bound to the carrier particles is sufficient so as achieve a release rate of the pesticide from said matrix in the range from 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{day}$ to 40.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{day}$.

~~50~~ (Amended) The method claimed in claim ~~59~~, wherein the at least one additional layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinylidene chloride, and combinations thereof.

Please add new claim 63 as follows:

~~63~~ (New) The method as recited in claim ~~41~~, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, vinyl acetate, urethane, polyester, silicone, neoprene, isoprene and combinations thereof. --